



Test Your Speaking & Listening Skills

Are You English? – Quiz 2

Englishness

Discuss each situation with a partner. What would you do or say? What do you think an English person would do or say? Check the answers and discuss whether they match your perception and experience of English people:

a) What would you do when...? b) What would an English person do when...?

1. you have to stand during your journey on a crowded bus or train.
2. you are in your front garden.
3. you are at the dentist's and they don't wear gloves or a mask during proceedings.
4. you see the same commuters at the train station every week day for years.
5. you are queueing at the gate at a foreign airport and there are foreign people all around you who are not respecting your personal space, e.g. pushing you.
6. another driver slows down to let you pull out of a side road onto a busy main road.
7. you are in a queue at the supermarket and the person in front of you leaves briefly to get a bottle of milk, then returns to join the queue, back in front of you.
8. a friend borrowed one of your favourite DVDs two years ago but has not returned it.
9. a plumber arrives to fix your sink.
10. you are in the pub with your friends and they are all having a good moan.

a) What would you say when...? b) What would an English person say when...?

1. you want to show sympathy to somebody who has just been dumped by their partner.
2. somebody compliments you on some really good work that you have done.
3. somebody congratulates you on your fantastic new job.
4. somebody congratulates you on your amazing new car.
5. you mishear somebody.
6. you want to pass somebody in a crowded place.
7. somebody bumps into you in the street by accident.
8. you make accidental contact with somebody – briefly invading their personal space.
9. the bus driver hands you your change.
10. you get off the bus or train (if you are close to the guard).

Results: how many times did your answer match the English person's answer?

1-5 times: You are not English, but it is not impossible to learn the wacky ways of the English.

6-10 times: There are some English characteristics in you! Keep going!

11-15 times: You are doing well and may yet become fully English in the future!

16-19 times: Englishness is within your grasp! A world of cringe-making embarrassment awaits you!

20 times: You are English and you didn't need a quiz to tell you that, did you? Never mind.